

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-10

/106 W

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R 090610Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 176

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN RP

SUBJ: US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS

REF: MANILA 12437

1. PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR FAROLAN, SEPT 8 AT BULGARIAN
RECEPTION, GAVE ME HIS VIEWS ON US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS.
THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE FULLY IN ACCORD WITH OTHER
CONVERSATIONS BUT MAY FORESHADOW DIFFICULTIES SINCE HE
IS PHILIPPINE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ASEAN, MEMBER OF
SCCAN, AND ARDENT CONTENDER FOR POST OF FIRST SECRETARY
GENERAL OF ASEAN. MANILA IN BETTER POSITION EVALUATE
HIS REMARKS THAN I.

2. FAROLAN SAID HE HAD RETURNED FROM MANILA WHERE HE
HAD SEEN FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO AND OTHER OFFICIALS AND
HAD PARTICIPATED IN SEPT 4 DISCUSSIONS WITHIN ASEAN
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STANDING COMMITTEE ON POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS WITH US.

3. ACCORDING FAROLAN (AND CONTRARY PARA 2 OF REFTEL), STANDING COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED TAKE NO ACTION ON AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN'S APPROACH TO ROMULO SINCE THIS WAS INFORMAL. PIECE OF PAPER PASSED BY ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR TO BARRERA WAS MERELY "UNSIGNED MINUTE OF CONVERSATION" AND DID NOT CONSTITUTE FORMAL SIGNED REQUEST WHICH STANDING COMMITTEE HAD ANTICIPATED. NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL SUCH REQUEST RECEIVED AND TRANSMITTED TO STANDING COMMITTEE.

4. FAROLAN SAID ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE WOULD JUDGE US PROPOSAL SOLELY FROM STANDPOINT OF BENEFITS WHICH WOULD COME TO ASEAN COUNTRIES FROM SUCH CONSULTATIONS. BY THIS FAROLAN SAID HE MEANT AID AND USEFUL COOPERATION. ASEAN WOULD STUDY US PROPOSAL AND MAKE COUNTERPROPOSAL. IF US NOT PREPARED BE FORTHCOMING AS OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS EEC, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA HAVE BEEN, FAROLAN SAW LITTLE USE IN PURSUING MATTER.

5. I EXPLAINED TO FAROLAN THAT THIS APPROACH SOMEWHAT CONTRARY TO MY UNDERSTANDING FROM INDONESIANS WHO NOW APPEARED TO WELCOME POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGE WITH US ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN'S APPROACH TO ROMULO HAD BEEN IN RESPONSE TO EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND SPECIFIC QUERIES ABOUT WHAT US MIGHT HAVE IN MIND. WE HAD FROM BEGINNING WANTED TO LET ASEAN COUNTRIES KNOW OF OUR READINESS TO CONSULT BUT TO LEAVE INITIATIVE TO THEM.

6. FAROLAN INSISTED THAT ALL OTHER ASEAN CONSULTATIONS HAD RESULTED FROM FORMAL INITITIVE BY OTHER PARTY AND THAT AID WAS A VIRTUAL CONDITION OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS. THIS IS CONTRARY MY UNDERSTANDING FROM DUTCH AMBASSADOR HERE WHO SAID THAT EEC DISCUSSIONS GREW OUT OF INFORMAL CONTACTS AND HAD BEEN PRIMARILY RELATED TO TRADE MATTERS.
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